

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1862.

TRIPLE SHEET.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.
No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications.
Whatever is intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for his good faith.
We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.
All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE," New-York.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

—Gen. Shields's advance was attacked on Monday near Port Republic by Jackson's army, and a sharp engagement ensued, lasting five hours. Our advance consisted of about 1,600 men of the 8th and 11th Pennsylvania, the 7th Indiana and 1st Virginia, forming the 4th brigade, under Col. Carroll. They reached Port Republic, on the South Branch of the Shenandoah, about 12 miles south of Harrisonburg, on Sunday. It will be remembered that Fremont had chased Jackson eight miles from Harrisonburg on the road to Port Republic, and fought a fierce battle with him, on the same day (Sunday). Jackson was, therefore, actually between Fremont and Shields's advance; Fremont was victorious, and the only possible escape for the Rebel army was to repel Col. Carroll and save the bridge at Port Republic. Col. Carroll found a portion of the enemy at Port Republic on Sunday, and had a skirmish with them. Instead of destroying the bridge, he concluded to hold it. Early on Monday he was furiously attacked by a greatly superior force—probably the main body of Jackson's army escaping from Fremont—and a desperate contest was begun for possession of the bridge. The Rebels poured in, five to one, and our men were compelled to retreat, which they did in good order, contesting every inch of ground. The loss on both sides is said to be heavy, and the engagement is called one of the most severe during the war. There is no doubt of it, for it was a matter of life and death with Jackson. Gen. Shields has been seriously retarded by high water. He was at Luray on Monday or Tuesday. This place is the Court-House of Pike County, about midway between Front Royal and Port Republic. As Jackson succeeded in driving Col. Carroll back, but did not follow him, it is probable that the whole Rebel force has escaped across the Blue Ridge toward Charlottesville.

—We have a dispatch from McClellan's headquarters dated yesterday. The weather was stormy, and the roads in a wretched condition. Richmond papers acknowledge the death of Col. Ashby.

—Very interesting letters from Gen. McClellan's army are printed on our third page, together with further lists of killed, wounded, and missing at the battle of Fair Oaks. It is proved beyond doubt that the Rebels made the attack on the memorable Saturday with 60,000 men; that instead of the decisive victory, of which they were so confident, they were obliged to confess a complete defeat, with a loss of 10,000. It is also stated, with every probability of truth, that the new well-known North Carolina Unionism of feeling had broken out on Tuesday in open revolt in six North Carolina regiments—an entire brigade, indeed, from the North State; that the brigade was surrounded with Mississippi and Alabama troops in superior numbers, and disarmed and placed in confinement.

—We get through a Memphis paper, extracts from *The Houston (Texas) Telegraph* of May 23. Commander Eagle of the U. S. Frigate *Santee*, had, on the 17th, demanded the surrender of Galveston, in order to save the loss of life that would follow a bombardment. The demand was not complied with, Gen. Hebert, the Rebel chief, saying that when the Union land and naval forces appeared a reply would be made. On the 23d a war vessel arrived, and in apprehension of an attack the foreign Consuls had taken steps for the protection of their subjects.

—The overwhelming superiority of the enemy's numbers in the battle of Fair Oaks is fully proved by a partial list of their wounded in a copy of *The Richmond Enquirer* now before us. This list—the second or third already published—has names of wounded men from sixty-four regiments and ten independent corps. They doubtless had nearly a hundred regiments in the two days' battle.

—On the third page will be found our Special Correspondence from Gen. McDowell's army, and from the Burnside Expedition. On the fourth page, correspondence from Harper's Ferry, Cincinnati, and St. Louis. Also an account of the Army Hospital at Washington.

—We give on the second page several columns of extracts from late Southern newspapers. They are richly worth the reading, not so much for the little truth they contain, as for the vain boasting that still forms the staple of Rebel editorials and correspondence.

—It was reported at Memphis on Monday that Com. Farragut's fleet had passed above Vicksburg, but was obliged to return on account of shallow water. Matters were quiet at Memphis.

GENERAL NEWS.

—We have European news to the last instant by the Africa at Halifax. The English Conservative party had collected all their force for the purpose of upsetting Lord Palmerston on the Retrenchment question. Mr. Lindsay had given notice that he should call attention to the relations of England with the Federal and also the Confederate States of America on the 27th of June. *The Times* was harping upon the financial crisis which it is sure must come in America. *The Post* was nursing the hope of a great victory for Beauregard at Corinth. The British Government, at the request of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, had ordered two steamers to be got ready for the purpose of making a further survey on both sides of the Atlantic. Our Consul at Paris had issued a notice that no further applications can be received from foreign officers for commissions in the Federal army. The Turkish reported to have gained a great victory in Montenegro. Garibaldi was at Com. *The Paris Post* states that a note has been addressed to the English and Spanish Governments by the French Government, explaining the conduct of France, and declaring that France would consider herself released from the obligations of the Convention entered into, if the Allies treated directly with Juarez. The *Patrie* asserts that Spain will concur diplomatically in bringing about a solution of the question. Gen. Prim will return to Europe. Gen. Serrano will be sent as Ambassador to Mexico. Broadstairs at Liverpool were somewhat firmer; Beef and Pork declining; American Securities steady.

—In Senate, yesterday, a bill was passed in relation to the appointment of lieutenants in the

Marine Corps; also the bill providing for 40 additional surgeons, and 120 assistant surgeons of volunteers. The bill to amend the Fugitive Slave Law was taken up, but postponed to get up the Pacific Railroad bill. This bill was discussed briefly, and was postponed until to-day. Bills were introduced to provide means and mode for taking evidence in certain cases against the Government; to establish Provisional Governments in certain cases; for the better government of the Navy.

In the House, the bill to regulate the pay of certain army officers was taken up. The Senate had inserted a section reducing the mileage of Congressmen to 20 cents a mile. The House Military Committee recommended that it be struck out, as it was not germane to an army bill. Mr. F. A. Conkling moved to amend the section by reducing the mileage to the actual traveling expenses. The amendment was adopted by 88 against 30, and the House then struck out the section as thus amended. Mr. Washburne moved to reconsider and lay on the table the last vote. This was agreed to, and thus the mileage reform disappeared. The bill to reorganize the boundaries of Circuit Court districts was passed. A resolution was adopted to inquire into the truth of charges made to the Government that Ben. Wood (member from this city) had committed acts of treason in giving intelligence to Rebels in arms. The Committee of Ways and Means presented a bill for issuing \$150,000,000 of Treasury notes, of \$5 and under, bearing no interest. It was ordered to be printed.

—The eclipse of the moon (about the only event independent of the weather) came off last night according to the regular astronomical programme. Except now and then a drift of fleecy clouds, the sky was clear, and many thousands of good citizens, whose thoughts are none too often turned heavenward, kept late hours to view the somewhat common, but always grand phenomenon.

—Secretary Welles has sent to the Committee on Naval Affairs some very important statements and suggestions in regard to the present and future condition of that branch of the public defense. Our Washington dispatches give a synopsis of his communication.

—For general news from San Francisco, Boston, Philadelphia, Europe, and China, see ninth and tenth pages of this paper.

—There was a severe storm at Fortress Monroe on Tuesday. Two steamers were about to sail for New-York with wounded and sick soldiers.

—The official report of the repulse of the French army in Mexico is given on the fifth page of this paper.

—An interesting letter by the Hon. Henry Winter Davis, on Confiscation, is printed on our ninth page.

STATE OF THE MARKETS.

Governments were firm yesterday morning, and all dividend-paying securities were in active demand for investment. In speculative shares there was more disposition to sell, and prices were a little lower. The market at the Second Board opened dull, but brightened up very soon and closed steady, with a 1/2 advance in some shares. Money continues very abundant, and first-class commercial acceptance, at 6 months, pass freely at 4 per cent. Freight was lower and more active, closing buoyantly. Western and State flour was firmer, with active demand for export. Trade brands were in good request, at slightly better prices. Sales, 37,500 bbls. Canadian better and more active; Southern more in request and firmer. Rye flour steady, with moderate demand. Corn meal improved in demand, prices steady. Wheat was more active for export, especially for choice Spring, sales of 240,000 bush. Barley and Barley Malt quiet at previous prices. Oats in good supply and lower. Rye steady, with fair request. Corn in good demand for export, and firmer; sales 131,000 bush. Peas were in large supply and lower, with a fair demand at the auction; sales 1,400 bbls. Beef heavy, with ample supply. Beef Hams in better request, but lower. Bacon in moderate demand. But Meats in fair request. Lard firm, with good demand. Butter and Cheese in limited request, prices about the same as before.

By our dispatches this morning we learn that a severe battle has been fought at Port Republic, between the advanced guard of Gen. Shields's army, under Col. Carroll, and, probably, the whole of Jackson's force. Jackson, hotly pursued by Fremont as we know he is, probably felt that it was life or death for him to cross the bridge at that place. That he finally effected his object by bringing overwhelming numbers to bear upon the small but brave band that opposed his progress, does not, nevertheless, insure his escape. He may reach the mountains before he is overtaken, but new energy will be given to his pursuers, both Shields and Fremont, by this renewed chance of his escape, and he must make almost superhuman efforts to evade them. It is a race for life on one side, and for glory and revenge on the other.

GIVING AID AND COMFORT TO THE ENEMY.

The Unionists are either right or wrong in resisting the Slaveholders' Rebellion. They cannot be both right and wrong, nor is there any way of splitting the difference between them consistently with honesty and truth. If those who direct the National efforts in this struggle provoked, outraged and oppressed the South so that her people were compelled to take up arms in vindication of their own manhood, then the People ought to rise as one man, wrest power from the unworthy hands to which it has most unwisely been committed, and put an end to the war. But if—as Andrew Johnson and Parson Brownlow affirm, and we most undoubtedly believe—there was no cause whatever for rebellion—if the election of Lincoln was, as Gen. Jackson said, the tariff was in 1832 and the Slavery question next would be, "but a pretext," and as Barnwell Rhett pronounced it, "the opportunity," for this Disunion outbreak—the eagerly-awaited, coveted and schemed-for opportunity—then he who imputes that one side is as much to blame as the other, and seeks to cover Republicans and Rebels with a common odium, is not merely a systematic deceiver but a virtual traitor. He is doing his utmost to paralyze the energies of the Government by robbing it of the hearty and enthusiastic support of the People. He is doing the basest journey-work of Jeff. Davis and Floyd without having the courage to share their perils.

Good friends have repeatedly remonstrated with us against noticing in any manner *The New-York Express*. That journal, they urge,

pursues a course so factious, so unpatriotic, so vile, that it should be regarded only with silent loathing. But there are thousands of imperfectly educated people with whom a confident assertion, especially if day by day reiterated, passes for truth if they do not see it contradicted. They wait a little to see what is said on the other side, and if nothing is, they accept the iterated falsehood as an admitted truth. Hence the disagreeable duty of sometimes exposing assertions which are calculated to damage the credit of the Government or chill the patriotic ardor of the country.

The Express of yesterday has the following: "The *Express*, in concert with *The Post*, urges that Congress keep on sitting and sitting! The *Abolition Journal* says that this is their last chance for forty years to saddle 'Debs,' 'High Monopoly Tariffs,' 'Stocks,' 'Jobs,' 'Contracts,' 'Kick,' upon the country."

—Here the Republicans—including the ultra Free Trade *Evening Post*, with its sixty years of vehement wholesale hostility to all but the lowest possible Tariffs for Revenue only—are directly accused of prosecuting the War for the Union with intent to create a vast Public Debt, and saddle a "High Monopoly Tariff" on the country! If this were true, why should any good citizen render them any assistance?

The Express proceeds to copy a few lines of our brief refusal to discuss Protection and Free Trade, now that the Slaveholders' Rebellion has plunged us so heavily into debt that a high Tariff is for many years inevitable, and thus comments:

"True, the Corporators, and the Corporations, now have us for forty years, when really in the markets of the world, they were about to have no need of our 'Protection.' True, the 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 per cent. Tax is laid upon us for two generations. Capital has labor in its power, now, for forty years, at least. The *Express*, the *Post*, and the *Times*, together created, has thrown back Trade, and Commerce, and Progress, all the lives of every man now on the stage of action, over 20 years of age. Every farmer, every plowman, every laborer, is victimized throughout his whole existence here on earth. And thus have a few madmen, North and South, enslaved thirty millions of laboring men and women, in Capital, under the pretense of liberating four millions of darkies!"

—Is not the falsehood as palpable as atrocities? What "madmen," North or South, began this war "under the pretense of liberating four millions of darkies?" How infernal the assertion that "the Morrills" have "created" "this war" "together" with "the Toombses!" Never before on earth did a Government so bear and forbear to avert a civil war as ours did in the beginning of 1861. Never till then did a party just coming triumphantly into power submit to the indignity of giving special guarantees not to abuse that power in order to prevent a rebellion by their adversaries. Never was an Opposition so meekly reasoned with, assured, entreated, pleaded with to shun the abyss of Treason, as were the Slaveholding Aristocracy by President Lincoln in his Inaugural Address. If ever on earth a revolt against Constitutional Authority and Republican Liberty was utterly wanton and causeless, then such is the present Rebellion. If ever a Government did all that could and much that could not be expected of it to preclude an outbreak against its authority, then that has been done by Mr. Lincoln's Administration.

We might quote much more in the same spirit with the above extracts from yesterday's single issue of *The Express*, importing that the present civil war has been got up by jobbers, swindlers, and fundmangers in order to enrich themselves at the cost of labor, concluding with a touch at the Manufacturers (who are doomed by this war to pay three per cent on all their sales, and at least as large a percentage on their incomes, beside their heavy taxes), as follows:

"Hence, perhaps, the efforts of the Massachusetts Senators, who represent the forty powers of money, to keep open and keep up the war by continuing the taxes and sources of it! Hence the frantic cry about 'the negro slaves'; to throw dust into the eyes of the forty years' war!"

"Stonewall Jackson" is a good leader and is making a good fight for Disunion; but we doubt that he either is or can be as effective a supporter of the Slaveholders' Rebellion as is *The New-York Express*.

THE BANK OF COMMERCE AND THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

One of our strongest moneyed institutions, and others, are accused of having made for themselves a very advantageous bargain with the Government; while, on the other hand, the Secretary of the Treasury, it is insinuated, has shown partiality in the disposition of Government securities to favorites. The facts of the case will show that the Secretary has shown great sagacity on behalf of the Government, and that he is not guilty of the charge—a very grave one against a high public officer—of favoritism. These facts are:

The Government holds say \$20,000,000 of bonds, on which there is payable 7 3/10 per cent interest. The value of these securities has varied, from the 5th of May down to June 4, from 34 to 6 per cent above par.

The Government has issued for circulation say \$60,000,000 of its own notes, receivable for duties at the Custom-House instead of gold. This issue may be regarded as of the value of gold, for it performs at the Custom-House that office which beside it only gold can perform. As the Government stands in need of gold to pay its own interest, payable in gold, it would much prefer the receipt of gold for duties to the receipt of its own securities. Therefore, the Government is anxious to get out of its way this issue of \$60,000,000, which we will call the gold issue.

In this state of things, when the actual market value of the securities paying 7 3/10 interest was 6 per cent above par, liable to fluctuation as the news should be favorable or unfavorable to the cause of the Union, it is understood that the Bank of Commerce makes an offer to the Secretary of the Treasury to take from him \$1,000,000 of his 7 3/10 notes at three per cent premium, pay the back interest on those notes in coin, and pay for the same to the Government issue receivable for duties. This issue was then worth 4 per cent premium in the market. The offer was accepted by the Secretary of the Treasury, not because it came from the Bank of Commerce, but because it was considered an advantageous operation for the Government. There is not the least doubt that any other responsible bank in the city or in the country could have made the same arrangement at the time. But it is said that the Bank of Commerce made a profit, and why could not the Government have secured to itself that profit? This an-

swer to this question is, that the Government made a good operation for itself when it made sure three per cent premium on its own securities, and removed from circulation \$1,000,000 of its other securities from the payment of which it was anxious to be released. The fact that the Government was about to throw upon the market securities of which it held \$20,000,000 in amount, would have caused a decline in the price of those securities, while the desire of the Government to purchase up the demand notes would have greatly enhanced the price of those notes. These propositions will not be disputed by any man of business; the effect actually produced upon the market when the Bank of Commerce purchased one million of these demand notes was to cause an advance of one and a-half per cent—the market rose from 1/2 per cent premium to two per cent. Now, we submit to a candid public that the Secretary of the Treasury has in this negotiation shown great sagacity as the agent of the Government, although it has happened that the Bank of Commerce has made a good profit on an operation by which it is conceivable that, in the fluctuations of the market, there might have been a loss. These facts show the length and breadth of the foundation for the charge made against those engaged in these negotiations. Can it be said by any fair man that the Bank of Commerce has done any thing unpatriotic or dishonorable? or can it be charged with the slightest show of justice that the Secretary of the Treasury has been unfaithful to his high trust?

We have no hesitation in expressing our confident belief that the Secretary of the Treasury would, in the exercise of that sound judgment which has always characterized his official course, now entertain favorably a proposition for disposing of the entire amount of his 7 3/10 securities upon the terms on which he made the sale to the Bank of Commerce. We are equally confident that neither the Banks of New-York, nor any other capitalists, would, for the reasons before assigned, make any such proposition to the Secretary for taking the entire amount of these securities now held by the Government.

Thus far, we have treated this transaction as one occurring between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Bank of Commerce, and it is true that this Bank was the first capitalist in this city who made a proposition to the Government. But it did happen that another capitalist, Mr. Morris Ketchum's house, without, as we are informed, any concert with the Bank of Commerce, made a similar proposition to that made by this bank, and for the like amount, \$1,000,000. This proposition was also accepted by the Secretary. For having made this transaction in perfect good faith, Mr. Ketchum has been singled out as the object of very acrimonious and we think very unjust censure. What he has done which any fair and honorable man of business, or patriotic citizen, might not do, we are quite unable to see.

CROSS-PURPOSES.

Opening two of our City journals yesterday, our attention was attracted by the following paragraphs:

CHICAGO, June 10, 1862.
A special dispatch from Memphis, dated the 9th, says: "It has been decided by the Union authorities not to allow runaway negroes to come into our lines under any circumstances, and that they have no control over their outside lives."

Just before closing, Mr. Colver said he had seen the President, and spoke as follows: "The President said that the 13th of January the Chicago, and sending back fugitive slaves, and searching vessels going North, never had emanated from his Administration. Such an order never had been given by him, nor would it be tolerated by him or his Administration. He said more than that. He said no fugitive slave who came within the lines of the United States Army should ever be returned to his master."

—If Policy and Honesty be not irreconcilable foes, it does seem to us that the time for open, manly, straightforward dealing with this contraband question has fully arrived. We are not here insisting that any particular course should be taken by the Government, but simply that it should take a course, proclaim it, and require its subordinates to conform to it. Especially in Memphis does it seem to us desirable that it should act for itself, and in accordance with principles which it should not blush to avow. That city has been one of the most malignant fomenters of the treason which is now devastating the Union and decimating its people. It is not too much to say that but for the early and constant vehemence of Memphis in the Secession cause, Tennessee could not have been forced out of the Union. But, long before that consummation, every avowal of sympathy for the National cause had in that city been suppressed and punished as crime. The outrages, the indignities, the spoliation, to which men and women have there been subjected for no fault but that of love and loyalty to their country, have been fiendish in their character, and have been perpetrated without one word of remonstrance from her people. Thousands have there been forced into the Rebel armies by processes of which pirates should be ashamed. The whole region adjacent has been infuriated with treason, and has reaped an appropriate harvest of bankruptcy, famine, bereavement and desolation.

Memphis has fallen before the triumphant progress of the National arms; and the very first use of the victory is to sacrifice the humble friends of the Union cause to its haughty and implacable enemies. The law of the land forbids the surrender of human beings by our armies to those who claim to be their owners; whereupon the Union Military authorities at Memphis forbid colored persons to come within the lines of our forces! If another Tillman and Robert Small should seize a steamboat laden with muskets or munitions for the Confederate army and run it into the midst of our fleet at Memphis, he must of course be driven back with it to the enemy, too happy if he escape the fate of the negro who was escaping from the rebel lines to ours on the Chickahominy, and was killed by a shot from our cavalry pickets under Gen. Stoneman.

We plead for manliness. If it be the policy of our Government to drive Four Millions of People into the service of Secession, who would much rather serve the Union, let that policy be avowed and consistently acted. Let

us at least act so as not to earn at once the contempt of the masters and the abhorrence of the slaves. Let the Government draw a broad, clear line, and direct all our Generals and Commanders to walk right up to it. If be our fixed intent to uphold Slavery to Rebels, we ought in common decency to send back the vessels captured for us by slaves, and warn them not to bring us information or serve us as guides. If we cannot afford to be noble, let us at least be consistently base. If we are ever to have a policy with regard to "contrabands" that we dare avow and live up to, is it not high time it were made known?

MILEAGE.

The House of Representatives yesterday voted—Yeas 88, Nays 30—to reduce the Mileage of Congress to the actual traveling expenses of the Members. They then struck out the item, on the ground that it had no place in the bill under consideration.

When the Pay and Mileage of Congress were originally fixed, the former was put at \$6 per day, and the latter at \$6 for every twenty miles necessarily traveled in coming to and returning from the capital at each session. Then forty miles per day was a fair average rate of travel, and its actual cost, including food and lodging, could hardly have been less than \$8 for that distance. The Members received \$12, which left him \$4 for his day after paying his expenses. That was no more than a fair allowance. Since then, Steamboats, Railroads, and Locomotives have enormously quickened and cheapened inland travel, but lengthened the routes; so that the successors of Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, and William H. Harrison actually receive twice as much for Mileage to-day as those early legislators from the West received for making the journey at a far greater expense and in quadruple the time. The pay of Members has been increased, on the assumption that living is dearer or intellectual labor worth more than it was seventy or eighty years ago; and this passes unchallenged. The same rule requires a reduction of Mileage to the standard of cost. The Member is now paid for his full time by the year, and ought not to claim or receive more as Mileage than the cost of the journey.

The idea, however, of fixing no rate whatever, but letting each Member charge his actual expenses, was never suggested by a sincere advocate of Mileage Reform. Some Members consider brandy smashes, milk punch, and mint juleps among the necessary items of traveling expenditure; others have different tastes. On steamboats, Members have been known to beguile the time with a quiet game of poker or bluff, which is apt to get exciting and lead to considerable disbursements. Uncle Sam will naturally decline to be involved in these investments. The true and proper course is to fix the Mileage at the fair average cost of traveling throughout the country, which is ten cents per mile—say five where the conveyance is by railroad or steamboat, and fifteen where it is not. Ten cents per mile by the most direct mail route would be just, and we hope to live till it is adopted.

THE REBEL TROOP ENGAGED AT FAIR OAKS.

We find in *The Richmond Enquirer* of June 5 a partial list of the Rebel wounded in the battles of May 31 and June 1. It is the second or third installment, as *The Enquirer* says it "continues the list," and in running over it we find represented sixty-four regiments and ten independent corps, as follows:

Mississippi—2d, 4th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 19th, Virginia—7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 23d, 25th, 32d, 38th, 41st, 47th, 49th, 53d.

Florida—2d.

Alabama—2d, 3d, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th.

South Carolina—1st, 4th, 5th, 6th.

North Carolina—4th, 5th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 22d, 23d, 37th.

Georgia—3d, 6th, 14th, 19th, 23d, 27th, 28th, 29th, 35th, 45th, 49th.

Tennessee—7th, 14th.

Texas—1st, 5th.

Louisiana—5th.

Hampton's Legion, 4th Battalion of Artillery, 4th Louisiana Battalion, 2d Arkansas Battalion, Palmetto Sharpshooters, 4th Arkansas Battalion, Louisiana Zouaves, South Carolina Sharpshooters, 1st Virginia Artillery, 4th Virginia Artillery.

How many more regiments were in the fight it is not possible to tell. It is apparent that their losses are very heavy, but *The Enquirer* gives no estimate.

The correspondent of *The Philadelphia Press*, writing from headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, on the 7th inst., tells this story:

REPORTED REBEL MUTINY.

We have, from the balloon corps, a most startling account of a Rebel mutiny. Two or three days ago, while taking observations, the balloons observed quite a commotion in the enemy's camp. A large party of troops were drawn out, and from the hurrying of horses and preparation of arms, he first thought there was to be an attack upon our forces. Soon, however, he observed the troops take a position, and direct their pieces at the Rebel brethren. Field places being brought to bear, he discovered the curious-looking party to be North Carolinians, and that they were taking a position of defense against the attack of others to the Rebel army. Fire was soon opened by both parties. Valley after valley of musketry was poured into each other's ranks, and the battle seemed to go on for a long time undecided. Soon, however, the North Carolinians appeared to be getting the worst, and directly broke and fled—the others gaining a complete victory.

I send you this story as I heard it. For some time the Rebel gun opposite Mechanicsville have been turned toward Richmond, and on the day on which it is said this mutiny and battle took place, a great smoke arose from the enemy's camp, and volleys of musketry could be distinctly heard, during several hours. The North Carolinians are known to be discontented. When prisoners are taken in battle it is generally discovered that the North Carolinians among them have not fired their muskets, and that they make no resistance to capture. The news of the doing at home of the reputation of the Rebel Government, and the recall of the Carolina troops in the army—has, no doubt, by this time, reached the enemy's camp, and would be sufficient to cause a mutiny and sanguinary battle. As it is, I observed Rebel guns turned toward their own works on the afternoon in question; saw the smoke, and heard the volleys of musketry. If there was a fight, or is to be another, I say, with all my heart and soul, God help the North Carolinians!

It will be observed that this confirms the statement of one of our own correspondents, whose letter is in our supplement this morning. That letter is of an earlier date, but

was crowded out of our yesterday's paper by the long, interesting account of recent events on the Mississippi. As here are two reports of the same occurrence from independent sources, there would seem to be no reasonable doubt of the fact of a serious mutiny in the Rebel army.

THE TRIBUNE shields Gen. McDowell by stating (no doubt truthfully) that he is acting in obedience to the orders of his superiors; but it admits, by implication, that the essential point of our criticism was well made; which is, that McDowell's command is stationary and useless when every disciplined regiment is needed for active service. [World.]

—We "admit" nothing of the kind. We know no more than *The World* how many men are now under Gen. McDowell's command, nor where they are, nor what they are doing. We only know that the President of the United States directs personally and continually the transfer of troops from one department to another and the general disposition of our forces, overruling even the Secretary of War when he sees occasion for so doing. And we do not believe that the President keeps a whole Army corps, nor even the fraction of one still left under Gen. McDowell's command, inactive or in a merely defensive position, without good reason for so doing. Should we ever be convinced that the constitutional Commander-in-Chief is acting so weakly as is implied by *The World's* criticism, we shall say so frankly and not whip him over the back of a Major-General who is simply obeying the orders of his superior.

We cannot see the necessity or propriety, in times like these, of paying \$7,500 per annum as the salary of a Commissioner to Hayti, nor of \$4,500 to one at Liberia. We think \$3,000 per annum would procure a person fully competent and trustworthy for either of these places, and are sure \$4,000 would. We pray Congress, while imposing heavy burdens on the People, to take care that not one farthing is spent for which there is not an imperative necessity. There will be an attempt to make partisan capital against the party in power out of the opening of diplomatic relations with these two republics, any how, and a salary for a commissioner to Hayti equal to the average compensation of three Governors of States will give point to that effort. Why not rather be frugal and wise!

Hon. OWEN LOVEJOY, M. C. from Illinois, will speak to-night at the Cooper Institute on the relations of Slavery to the War for the Union, and will show why our City ought especially to desire and seek a radical cure for the Rebellion. We bespeak for this address the attention of business men especially, for we believe it will be found able, practical, and convincing. Mr. Lovejoy is termed fanatic; and we urge those who have been taught to dread that species of animal to get and hear how rational and sensible a fanatic really is. There are few better debaters than Mr. L., and none more thoroughly master of his subject.

We publish on the fifth page of this morning's paper a letter from Capt. Pfannmiller in relation to the behavior of the 65th Regiment in the battle of Fair Oaks. That our correspondent may, in the excitement of the moment, have mistaken the flying soldiers whom he met for members of that regiment, is quite possible. But that he related accurately what he saw and heard, and correctly described the soldiers whom he met, whoever they were, we do not for a moment doubt. If none of the 65th wear a red uniform, then he was evidently wrong in his charge of cowardice against them.

A letter on Confiscation by HENRY WINTER DAVIS appears in our Supplement this morning.

FROM A NEW-YORK SOLDIER OF THE MISSOURI 10TH.—James R. Sharp, Jr., of this city, writing to his father under date of the 31st ult., says: "About 6 o'clock on the evening of the 28th, our company was ordered out on grand guard. Our guard line was but quarter of a mile from the Rebels. On the morning of the 29th, at about 7 o'clock, our regiment was ordered out to ascertain the position of the enemy. At a certain point the enemy was strongly posted in the woods. It was not the intention of our men to get into a fight, but they were suddenly attacked. They were not, however, thrown into confusion, but at the command of the Colonel fell to work, and after a few volleys they charged up to within 60 yards of the enemy's intrenchments, and not more than 250 men of the 10th Missouri for thirty minutes drove back and held in check seven regiments of the Rebels. This is so. Col. Holmes had to order them three times to fall back before they would do it. One of the deserters from the Rebels told us that they had buried 70 before he left. Our loss in killed and wounded was 30."

God has been merciful and gracious to Will and me, and we try to be thankful to Him for His goodness. I hope and pray that He will bring us out safely from this dreadful conflict. I recognize the hand of Providence in sending us on grand guard on that night; for although our position was one of great danger, yet we were not pushed by the enemy.

Our army is irresistible; the successes of the past three days have elated them to a great degree, and if God will but bless them, the war will be ended on the ground which the Rebels occupy.

EXCELSIOR LITERARY UNION.—The third anniversary of the Excelsior Literary Union was held last evening in the Lecture-room at Clinton Hall, Astor avenue. After the usual preliminary services, A. O. place. After the usual preliminary services, A. O. place. After the usual preliminary services, A. O. place.

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